

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-11. (cancelled)

12. (currently amended) One or more computer-readable storage media having computer-useable instructions embodied thereon for performing a method of allocating resource indexes in a communications networking environment, the method comprising:

receiving one or more requests to identify one or more indexes available for allocation; wherein said indexes are to be respectively and uniquely associated with one or more network resources, and wherein said network resources include one or more selections from the following:

- (1) a network element including a switch, a router, a signal-transfer point, a computer-processing component, or an office facility;
- (2) a database table; and/or
- (3) a call-routing path.;

querying a data-storage component to identify a set of available indexes consistent with said request(s), wherein querying said data-storage component includes providing a count parameter to denote a number of requested indexes;

denoting the identified indexes as unavailable for subsequent allocation;  
and

communicating said identified indexes and the data related to said indexes to a requesting component

The media of claim 11, wherein querying said data-storage component includes providing a count parameter to denote a number of requested indexes.

13. (currently amended) The storage media of claim 12, further comprising:  
receiving an indication that all or a portion of the one or more identified  
indexes were successfully allocated to said respective one or more network  
resources; and

indicating that the one or more identified indexes were successfully  
allocated.

14. (currently amended) The storage media of claim 12, further comprising  
receiving an indication that all or a portion of the one or more identified indexes were not able to  
be allocated to said respective one or more network resources.

15. (currently amended) The storage media of claim 14, further comprising  
deallocating the all or a portion of the one or more identified indexes.

16. (currently amended) The storage media of claim 15, wherein deallocating  
the all or a portion of the one or more identified indexes includes removing the denotation that  
the indexes are unavailable for subsequent allocation, whereby the all or a portion of the one or  
more identified indexes are available for subsequent allocation.

17-23. (cancelled)